

REMARKS

The Office Action dated February 27, 2007, has been carefully considered. The present Amendment is intended to be a complete response and to place the case in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-14 and 16-19 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 11-002486 by Shioji ("Shioji"). The Examiner indicated approval of the official drawings and acknowledged receipt of certified copies of the priority documents. The Examiner also returned initialed copies of form PTO/SB/08a indicating consideration of the material listed in the Information Disclosure Statements.

With this amendment, claims 1, 14, 16 and 19 are amended. Specifically, the Examiner has objected to claim 19 for informalities. Applicant has made the suggested correction to claim 19 and requests the objection be removed. Also with this amendment, claim 16 was amended to change "pod" to "port." Clarifying non-narrowing amendments are made to claims 1 and 14.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Shioji does not disclose or suggest a shelf supply duct wherein "mixed air is blowing out from the air outlets of the shelf," as recited in independent claims 1 and 14. Shioji discloses a storage device containing two distinct storage areas: a "cold storage 2" and a "coldness-and-warmth warehouse room 1." Only cold air is circulated in the cold storage 2, and *either* cold or warm air is circulated in the coldness-and-warmth warehouse room 21. Shioji does not disclose mixing the hot and cold air in either area. In contrast, the first and second conditioning air are mixed in the shelf supply duct. By doing so, air at a specific desired temperature can be blown out of each shelf and can be supplied to the periphery of the products.

Shioji does not disclose or suggest a shelf supply duct wherein "the first conditioning air supplied from the first connection port and the second conditioning air supplied from the

second connection port are mixed” as recited in independent claim 1. Similarly, Shioji does not disclose or suggest a shelf supply duct wherein “the shelf supply duct mixes and blows out the first conditioning air supplied from the first connection port and the second conditioning air supplied from the second connection port,” as recited in independent claim 14. In Shioji, air cooled by the condensator 14 is circulated in the cold storage 2 and, if cold damper 18 is slid forward, the same air cooled by condensator 14 can be circulated in the coldness-and-warmth warehouse room 1. However, warm air supplied by warmth duct 10 can only be circulated through the coldness-and-warmth warehouse room 1 since there is no outlet from warmth duct 10 to cold storage 2. In order for the coldness-and-warmth warehouse room 1 to circulate warm air, the warmth damper 11 is opened allowing the circulation fan 8 to draw air from the warmth duct 10 into the coldness-and-warmth warehouse room 1. In addition, the cold damper 18 is pushed against the heat insulation wall 21, effectively separating the cold air circulating in the cold storage 2 from the warm air circulating in the coldness-and-warmth warehouse room 1. At no time is the warm air mixed with the cold air in either area. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection are respectfully requested.

As all grounds of objection and rejection have been addressed and overcome, entry of this Amendment and issuance of a Notice of Allowance of the claims, as now presented, are respectfully solicited.

In the event that there are any questions relating to this Amendment or to the application in general, it would be appreciated if the examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that the prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Please charge any shortage or credit any overpayment of fees to BLANK ROME LLP, Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (123792-00106). In the event that a petition for an

extension of time is required to be submitted herewith and in the event that a separate petition does not accompany this response, applicant hereby petitions under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) for an extension of time for as many months as are required to render this submission timely.

Any fees due are authorized above.

Respectfully submitted,

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